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7 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

ATTENTION :



SUBJECT : H. R. 14135--To establish a National Resource Information System, and Other Purposes

1. H. R. 14135 creates within the Department of Commerce, a Bureau of Natural Resources Information charged with collecting, interpreting, and providing data on major raw materials essential to American industry and agriculture. Its responsibilities for natural resource data are similar to those of the Bureau of Census for population data.

2. The Act's coverage extends to major American "natural and substantial resource companies" and their affiliates. These companies are required to report data that will be maintained in one of three of the Bureau's data banks--Public, Confidential or Secret.

3. There are several provisions in the bill which could impact on the Agency. Section 106 (b) provides that the Secretary of Commerce whenever he deems it advisable may call upon any other department or office of the Government for natural resource information. Classified DDI data furnished under this provision would most likely go into the Secret data bank. These classified data, however, will not receive the usual security protection because Section 208 (b) of the bill provides that natural resource information shall not be placed or retained in either the Confidential or Secret libraries of the system on the grounds of national security considerations, unless a transfer to the Confidential or

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public library of the system directly or adversely affects the military and naval defenses of the United States. This is a narrow definition and eliminates any retention on the grounds of protecting intelligence sources and methods or of affecting foreign policy. Unless this section is amended, some DDI material furnished to the new Bureau could be subject to removal from the Secret data base at any time.

STAT 4. Section 703 (a) impacts mainly on the DDO and [redacted] but it also has an effect on DDI components. This section designates the new Bureau as the collection agency for natural resource information with the proviso that the collection program may be developed in consultation and cooperation with such other agencies as have a need for this type of information.

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[redacted]
H. C. EISENBEISS
Director, Central Reference Service

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